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BENSON ON THE FARM PROGRAM

One of the things Secretary of Agriculture Benson is reported to have told the Chief Executive is that farmers are happier with their plight now than they have been in four years. We do not think this is saying much, nor do we think that farmers are happy with their plight at present.

We think Secretary of Agriculture Benson is an unusual man and an accomplished one in one particular, at least. He has been able to retain the support of President Eisenhower and to remain in office when his farm program was a failure, and he admitted as much, for about five years. This is certainly a feat in itself.

Benson is reported to have told President Eisenhower recently at Newport, Rhode Island, that farm unrest was only a minor factor in the loss of a Republican Senate seat in Wisconsin recently. He also said there were some ten encouraging facts about the present farm situation.

While there may be ten factors which show that the farm situation is improving, there are several factors which show that the farmer is still getting a rather poor share of the national income.

First, his share of the national income is low. Second, his costs are rising faster than his income. Third, prices remain low and the Soil Bank program gives little hope of increasing the farmer's share of the national income. Fourth, the Republican Administration has spent more on its farm program in the five years since President Eistnhower was elected than the Democratic Administrations in the preceding twenty years spent on their farm program. Moreover, the Democrats obtained higher prices for the farmers and greater profits.

It is our belief that farmers are going to vote Democratic in the 1958 Congressional elections and in the 1960 Presidential election.

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NEEDS NO COMMENT

The New York TIMES is not famous for its favor of the South. The following quotation from the Sunday column of the distinguished New York TIMES political writer, Mr. Arthur Krock, does not appear to us to need any comment:

". . . . . what the Eisenhower Administration is enforcing is not a Congressional statute, not an admendment to the Constitution, submitted by two-thirds of Congress and approved by three-fourths of the States, but an interpretation of the Constitution by tht Supreme Court in 1954 that reversed the previous findings of that court."

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ON QUEENS AND HELICOPTERS

The people up at College Park, home of the University of Maryland, are in a tizzy about the arrangements for Queen Elizabeth. As the reader probably knows, the British Queen will attend a football game at College Park on October 19th.

The game will be that between Maryland and North Carolina, and the Queen will sit on the North Carolina side. This is so that she will be able to see the Maryland student body's cheering section which will present her with a spectacle involving the forming of various flags of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

The point we would like to make, in bringing up the subject, is that the Queen's schedule is so tight that officials are wondering how they will be able to get her to both the football game and to the Queen's dinner which will honor President and Mrs. Eisenhower. University officials are definitely considering use of a helicopter to fly the royal couple to the stadium on October 19th, to make the schedule.

This looks like the Queen and Prince Phillip will really get into the American hustle-bustle and be pushed into a fast routine during their visit, which incidently will include Jamestown Festival on October 16th.

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BOOKS ABOUT WORLD WAR II

It is interesting to note that some of the most important and significant books covering and explaining World War II are now beginning to reach the market.

For example, in a recent issue of a major newspaper, two important books caught the eye. One was entitled, "The Battle of Casino," and tells the story of the famous battle on an Italian hillside, where the Germans held up the Allied army for so many weeks and months, and which cost so many lives.

The other book which caught the eye was entitled, "Victory in Papua." This is the story of one of the grimmest campaigns in the history of the war. American troops in this battle, which was the battle of Southeast New Guinea, endured more than most.

It would appear that many interesting books about World War II are yet to be written, but that in the years to come perhaps we will see them rolling off the presses.

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There is nothing to be gained by anticipating evils that may not occur. Let's wait until we have to meet them face to face.

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The world has many people anxious to help you along, when you no longer require assistance.

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* * * * * * * * * *

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Washington Notes

BUSINESS

The state of business in the nation has some experts somewhat concerned. They see a definite slowing of business as a result of the recent boom having run out of steam. However, in the next six months, many believe that people themselves will provide the steam necessary to keep the wheels of business going. By early 1958, employment is expected to take up any slack now apparent, and by summer, a noticeable improvement is expected to be evident.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

The Capitol city of Washington, D. C. today has the highest proportion of negroes to whites of any major city in the United States, North or South. In Washington schools, seventy per cent of the pupils are negroes; 30 per cent white. However, New York City with 840,000 negroes is the world's largest negro city; Chicago is next with 738,000, and Philadelphia is third with 456,000.

NEW INQUIRIES

During the adjournment of Congress, there will be a new series of investigations. The business is slated for a going over by congressional committees. High prices are in for close scrutiny; farm policies are to be examined; tariffs studied and government spending looked into.

BUILDING ACTIVITY

A slight decline has set in in building activity, after a long boom. At the end of 1956, total building investment amounted to $2,894,000,000 As of July 31st, it was estimated at $2,850,000,000, a decrease of 1.5 per cent.

COST-OF-LIVING

Prices paid by consumers for goods and services have increased for eleven consecutive months, to a record high. Using 1947-49 as a base period, prices stood at 118.0 on January 1, 1957, as compared with an estimated 120.8 on August 1st, a rise of 2.4 per cent.

BUDGET SPENDING

Government spending for fiscal 1958 will amount to an estimated total, in billion dollars, of 71.4. It is to be divided as follows: National Security, including Military Aid abroad, 42.9; Economic Aid abroad and other international affairs, 2.3; Aid to Veterans, 5.1; Labor and Welfare programs, 3.3; Aid to Agriculture, 5.0; Interest, 7.4; General Government, 1.4; Allowance for Contingencies, .3.

WISCONSIN ELECTION

The Democratic victory in Wisconsin is seen as a real blow to Republican hopes of controlling the second session of the Eighty-Fifth Congress. More serious, however, is the fact of the split in Republican ranks for 1958 and 1960— divided leadership, lack of unity, loss of much of the party's prestige, discontents among the rank and file, resentment over economy prices and high taxes, waste in government.

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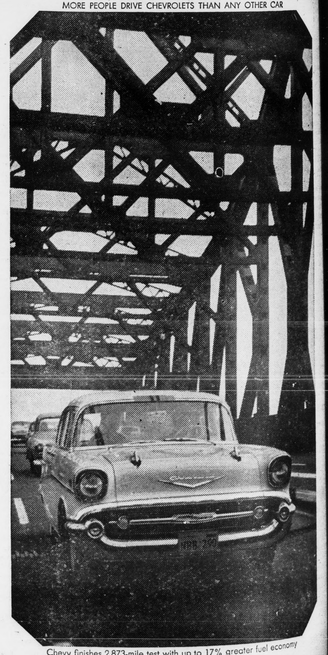

Chevy finishes 2,873-mile test with up to 17% greater fuel economy

Green

Sept. 24.- Mr. and ...ar and children, and ... Cheatham and Mrs. ... of Christiansburg, ...s. Ela Jennings last ...

Mrs. T. E. Inge and ...nchkon guests Sun... her mother, Mrs. Clara ...

Mrs. Freddie Wool... children, Cecil and ...ner guests Sunday in ... of Mr. and Mrs. O. J. ...n, Va.

Mrs. H. D. Baker and ...Paulette were visitors ...ay in the home of Mr. ...Harvey and family ...ams Thomas.

...Warriner is on the ...ness visiting her over ...ers Mr. and Mrs. Z. ... and Mrs. Carl Evans ...J. Evans.

...Million Circle met in ... of Mrs. H. B. Cralle on ...ay, with a good at...

...Clapp is visiting Mr. ...Clayton Martin and fam... Boston.

Mrs. Kelly Young and ...were supper guests on ...ay in the home of Mr. ...A. Young.

Mrs. Witt Woodall, of ...were visitors in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Randall Wooldridge Sunday P. M.

Mrs. Ella Jennings is visiting Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Jennings and family, at Cambria, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pringle and family, of Harrisonburg, Va., and Mrs. Edward Duffner, of Lynchburg visited Mr. T. T. Evans Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hodge and family spent the week-end at Prospect with relatives.

Richwood

Richwood, Sept. 23.- "My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways." -Proverb.

Mr. G. T. Marsh is spending some time with Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Marsh at Gladys.

Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Ferguson and daughters, Judy and Jane, of Lynchburg, visited Saturday evening with Mr. and Mrs. T. T. Wooldridge and Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Brannan and family.

Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Pugh were in Lynchburg on business Tuesday.

A. B. Hunter, Jr. spent the week-end with his family here.

Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Pugh were in Gladys to see Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Marsh Sunday afternoon.

G. P. Brannan and daughter, Georgie Belle were the dinner guests Monday of Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Ferguson and family.

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FARM NEWS

By J. A. Smith, County Agent

Fertilizing Strawberries

All small fruits, particularly strawberries, will respond to a fall application of a complete fertilizer. For average soils and growing conditions, this application should be made not later than the first week in October. Use a regular garden fertilizer such as 5-10-5, 5-10-10, or 4-12-8 at the rate of 25-30 pounds per 1,000 squares feet. Spring fertilization is nor normally recommended as it may cause excessive foliage growth and soft fruit. So fertilize your strawberries now for best results.

Care of Asparagus

Remove tops of asparagus after they have quit growing or have been killed by frost. Disk the beds lightly, but thoroughly. Keep weeds and grass out by frequent cultivations or apply chemicals to control them. To control germinating winter weeds in established plantings during dormancy, use CMU (Karmex W) at the rate of 3 level tablespoon to 1 gallon water per 1,000 square feet. Wash sprayer thoroughly before using it for other purposes.

Studies on Feeding Swine

Creep feeding is highly beneficial to young pigs, it is indicated by preliminary data from tests conducted by VPI Agricultural Experiment Station.

In the tests, pigs weighed an average of 25 pounds at weaning where no creep was supplied, as compared to 43 pounds where the best creep rations were used. The data also indicate that complex rations containing sugar and made into a soft pellet will give heaviest pigs at weaning.

In another test at the Tidewater Research Station at Holland, the scientists found evidence that pigs raised on concrete need a source of copper other than what they get from corn grown in the Tidewater Virginia area. Generally, however, trace minerals consisting of copper, iron, manganese, zinc, and cobalt, added in free choice salt or to the total feed, failed to increase rate of gain in growing pigs on practical rations. Pigs feds trace-mineralized salt ate more protein supplement on a free choice system of feeding than pigs fed salt alone and on the same feeding system. Further tosing showed, however, that trace mineralized salt did not increase protein requirement.

Still another test showed that ladino clover continues as the queen of pasture plants available for swine in southeastern Virginia. When pigs were fed on lush ladino clover on either a full or limited ration, there was no benefit from adding a protein supplement to corn. Pigs full-fed a complete ration in dry lot, however, made more rapid gains than pigs that were fed on pasture.

Preliminary data indicate that bred sows need no supplement to corn when run on succulent ladino pasture. Sows that were in good condition at breeding did well on ladino pasture without additional feed up to farrowing time.

Proper management of herd replacements pays off, says Dr. M. F. Ellmore, dairy specialist at VPI.

He says the first six months of a dairy heifer's life are critical. Getting the calf off to a good start is important. Nature intended that this start depend on the mother's milk. But milk is a valuable product, and there are substitutes or milk replacers that will do an adequate job. Almost all calf starters on the market today are satisfactory if used according to directions.

Trouble will result when you try short cuts. Remember, the calf starter is a substitute for milk. Cleanliness, freedom from drafts, dry stalls, plenty of light, and an adequate diet are essentials to a good start for a baby calf.

The second six months of life for the calf are not as critical, but housing and good management are essential. Development during this stage will permit greater use of good, high quality forage, supplemented with enough grain to keep growth normal. The digestive system is not completely developed during this stage, so only limited use should be made of pasture and silage. Don't forget to have the calf vaccinated for Bangs disease and black leg toward the end of this period.

Between one and two years of age, well-grown dairy heifers can be developed successfully on forage alone if it is of good quality. This applies equally to hay, silage, and pasture. Far too often the heifer is neglected during this period, because it is the least critical and the least expensive. Heifers of this age can be handled in fairly large groups if ample feeding space is available.

There are no rigid rules for feeding the growing heifer, Dr. Ellmore says. It is usually economical to provide all the good quality forage she will eat. If she does not grow satisfactorily, provide enough grain for growth and thriftiness. Extra attention is essential as the first freshening approaches.

GOALS FOR TREE PLANTING

The third and final year of the Governor's Plant More Trees program was launched in Amelia, Chesterfield, Cumberland, Nottoway, Powhatan, Lunenburg, and Prince Edward Counties on September 17, when new tree planting goals for those countries were made public. The occasion was a joint meeting of county forestry committees at Burkeville, Va., held under the auspices of Virginia Forests, Inc., and Continnental Can Co.

These individual county goals are part of a state-wide goal totalling 30 million seedlings for this 3rd year of the reforestation program, and represent the last of the overall 75 million goal which originally was established for the 3-year project.

The trouble with most people is that as soon as they get a few dollars ahead, they plan a twenty-dollar expenditure.

VEPCO EARNINGS SHOW BIG INCREASE

Net income of Virginia Electric and Power Company during August was 23 per cent higher than for August 1956, despite a general break in the hot weather that had pushed Vepco's production records to new highs in June and July. Edwin H. Will, Vepco president, reported that net income was $2,023,000, out of operating revenues of $10,745,000.

Revenues for the 12 months ending August 31 were up 9.6 per cent to $125,376,000, and balance for common stock for the same period was up 14.7 per cent, to $20,358,000.

The Vepco President said that the company's building program, which has cost $41,943,000 this year, is planned to keep gace with the constantly increasing consumption of electricity by domestic, commercial and industrial users.

KNOW THE WEATHER

By E. H. Sims

What causes the damage when a tornado strikes a farm or village or city? Is it the force of the wind as it hits structures in its path?

Most often, the greatest damage wrought by a tornado comes from the low pressure inside the funnel, not the strength of the winds that roar around the vortex. A tornado like a hurricane, is a low pressure disturbance, on a very small scale. On land, a tornado often measures only a few hundred feet, sometimes less, in diameter.

When this funnel touches the earth—it is always suspended from a cloud—the winds in the circular edges can cause destruction and blow down signs, wires, trees, sometimes even buildings. But, usually, the sudden change of pressure explodes buildings wrecked by tornadoes.

For, inside the funnel, air pressure is very low, so low that when the funnel sits down on a house, for example, surrounding it, there is not sufficient time for the high pressure inside the house to dissipate normally. When a sort of vacuum occurs (perhaps with windows and doors closed), the high-pressure air inside the house literally bursts out, sometimes taking windows, doors and walls down in the process.

By the way, what was the name of the last sensible book you read?

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